

# *Iowa*

## BIRD LIFE



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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLLECTING DATA ON NESTING BIRDS

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The Research Problems Committee has suggested that members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union collect data on common nesting birds of the state and file these at a central point for analysis of nest success, reproductive habits, distribution, and ecology of Iowa birds. It is believed that such studies will encourage birders to go afield during mid-summer rather than concentrating most efforts on non-resident birds of the spring and fall. With cooperation and enthusiasm, these data could form the basis of a new work on Iowa birds.

To this end, a nest-record card has been devised following the pattern set by the British Nest Record Scheme (Hutson, 1956; Myres, Cowan, and Urdvary, 1957). These cards (Figure 1) will be provided by the I.O.U. and will be available from and should be returned to Milton W. Weller (Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State University, Ames) at the end of the field season. Without exception, the **original card filled out in the field** should be sent for the permanent I.O.U. file. A neatly printed or typed facsimile prepared later in the home will be of much less scientific value. You may make duplicate cards for your file and may retain "title" to publication rights if you so desire. However, the data will be used in summaries prepared by the committee.

### Some general comments

To be of value, data must be tabulated carefully to the **minimal** standard indicated by the card. Because the field copy is desired, it is essential that the card be filled out at the nest site using **waterproof** ink or a **hard** pencil. Many ball-point pens are **not** waterproof.

Everyone willing to spend some time in the field making records should have cards available even if only a few nests can be studied. Imagine the amount of data available on the nesting success of the Robin if every member of the I.O.U. contributed data on a single nest during one year. Let that be the minimal goal of every member of the I.O.U. during 1962!

Some of you will want to undertake more ambitious projects involving nest-density, territoriality, and habitat use of an isolated area. Others already have started life histories of certain species and these nest cards will set a minimal standard so that workers on various projects will gather comparable data while retaining the objectives of their original project.

In all cases, data for only one nest will be recorded on each card. In cases where single visits are made to large colonies, nest records are better kept in a notebook with the nest record card serving as a guide to the type of data which should be recorded. Original notebooks or summaries of data may be mailed in for the permanent files.

Normally, record data only on nests for which clutch size is known prior to the hatch. Moreover, do not assume that the maximum number of eggs found on only one trip is the maximum number laid. Predators may destroy the first egg, or even one of a full clutch, without necessarily causing nest desertion. Only by careful observations can clutch size be established with certainty. Some workers number eggs as they are laid and record the order and time required for their hatching but this is likely to cause nest desertion and is not recommended for the average study.

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# NESTING RECORDS

3

SPECIES:		Observer		No.	
Sci. Name:		State		County	
Visit No.	Date	C.S.T. Time	Eggs	Yg.	♀ on?
REMARKS*					
Precise Locality:					
Habitat:					
Nest Material and Structure					
Nest Site					
Ht. of nest above: Ground— Water—					
Distance to:					

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Ref. No.

1st Egg—

Last Egg—

1st Egg Hatched

Last Yg. Hatched

Full Clutch Size

No. Hatched

No. Yg. left nest

\*  
B — building  
L — laying  
I — incubating  
D — deserted  
P — predated  
Other:

USE FLIP SIDE

Figure 1. The nest-record card.

In general, make no more than three visits to any one nest. Remember that females are especially prone to desertion during the laying period. If the nest is visible at some distance, and the female is on the nest, she should rarely be disturbed. This will prevent unnecessary desertion. In addition, never should a well-defined trail be made which predators can follow to ground nests. Many times, however, you can determine the status of backyard nests daily without disturbing the female.

It is expected that unanswerable questions will arise relative to the status of particular nests. In general, guesses are useless. Do not record data as fact on the basis of an assumption. A case in point is the determination of the fate of nests. If you cannot visit the nest while the young are present, droppings will usually indicate a hatch but it is often impossible to determine that these young reached the flight stage. A question mark is better than a guess but additional comments may be of value.

If you prefer to keep more notes than are possible on the front of the card, use the flip-side of the card by turning bottom to top and **not side to side**. This will permit easier processing. Carefully note the data that the summarizer will tabulate in the "office use" section but never fill this in.

#### **Filling in the card**

Each observer should number nests consecutively and keep a record book (or duplicate card file) so that he can keep these nest numbers in order. Numbers should never be used twice even in different years! This nest data number is not necessary but will be a convenience for the field worker and will be used by the compiler only when accessory data, or specimens are mailed with the nest card and bear the same observer's name and nest number.

Number visits consecutively. Record date using either an abbreviation for the month or a Roman numeral. Do not record 5-2-1962, but V-2-1962 or May 2, 1962 so that there is no possible misinterpretation. Record time of visit by Central Standard Time. Under remarks, note whether the female (or male) is sitting on the eggs, whether the other member of the pair is seen, and comment on building, laying, hatching, or size of the young.

The utmost caution and common sense must be used in making nest records. Do not take chances but if you are clearly responsible for loss of the nest, indicate it on the card. Often, the situation will be confusing and it may be impossible to establish what destroyed the nest or what caused desertion. Do not guess without indicating your reasons. For example: "probably raccoon—tracks at base of tree." Be sure your evidence is sound. Do not assume a Blue Jay destroyed a nest because you saw one fly away with an egg. Check to see if the eggs are cold because the nest could have been deserted due to human interference before the Blue Jay took advantage of the situation (see Errington, 1932).

Locality should be by state, county, and distance from the nearest town. Range, township, and section numbers would be preferable if a county map is available (ten cents each from the State Highway Commission at Ames). Because land ownership changes and means little to an "outsider", farmers' names are helpful only to the field worker.

Nest material and structure should be indicated with greatest possible precision. "Grass" or "twigs" are helpful terms but species of vegetation should be stated if known. Note "loose elm twigs" or "tightly woven brome lined with hair". Everyone has the tendency to record the unusual; be sure that grass and mud are mentioned although string, rags, or some other conspicuous material may seem dominant. Nest measurements and photographs

are optional. If photos are taken and filed with the card, they should not be attached, but the observer's name and number should be lightly labeled on the back.

Nest site also should be recorded as precisely as possible. "Small tree" is quite acceptable but "nest ten feet high in 30 ft. elm" would be better. Dr. Martin L. Grant, State College of Iowa, Cedar Falls, has offered to identify plant specimens pertinent to nest material or site. Please label with your own nest number so that the specimen later can be filed with the original card. However, whole nests are not to be mailed in.

Height of the nest above ground, or water (if the nest is in emergent vegetation) should be recorded. Distance from the nest to open water is vital information for species like ducks, rails, herons, and marsh blackbirds and distance to edges of cover types may be significant for any species.

An adequate description of the habitat in which the nest is found is perhaps most difficult for the amateur. However, it also is one of the most important observations to be made. Large numbers of habitat records for one species over a wide area will enable estimates of habitat preferences, site requirements, and adaptability of the species. A few ornithologists also are good botanists but most of us must fall back on a general description of the area. The habitat description may include topography, vegetation, the ecological picture, and human influences.

The following topographic terms are well-known and useful: upland, lowland, level, rolling, hilly, river, creek, stream bank, oxbow lake, glacial lake, marsh, floodplain, stream valley, hillside.

The vegetation of an area may be described from a static viewpoint of what is present. This may be done by listing species of plants (taxonomic) or by indicating the general life form (physiognomy) of the plants (grass, shrubs, small trees, etc.). The latter system may be verbal or diagrammatic and allows the non-botanist a means of habitat description useful to others. Some complex quantitative systems have been devised (Emlen, 1956) but a brief qualitative diagram will serve. Two examples and a suggested key are shown in Figure 2.

Another description of vegetation is the dynamic view of changing plant communities. It is well known that the vegetation of an area is controlled by climate and topography which produce a "climax" or ultimate vegetation in a given area. If this vegetation is removed, as in agricultural use, the immediate invasion of natural vegetation is not climax type but is a set of pioneer plants which takes over under the strikingly changed conditions. Thereafter, a fairly orderly and crudely predictable change or succession occurs until climax vegetation is reached. This may require 60 to 100 years in grassland and 250-300 years in forest. Changes in moisture levels of the soil are a major factor. In most prairie areas, this involves annual weeds and grasses which give way to perennial forbs and grasses. In cleared woodland, however, shrubs, small trees, and finally mature timber follow pioneering annual and perennial weeds and grasses. Thus, use of terms like "perennial weed stage" indicates past and future as well as present.

A similar succession is seen with different water levels in aquatic habitats and a marsh edge displays a whole series (or "sere") of stages from dry to wet-loving plants: cottonwood, willow, grasses, sedges, river bulrush, cat-tail, and hardstem bulrush.

Human influences also may aid in descriptions of a general nest area or site. These terms may prove useful: farmstead or homesite, farm grove, woodlot, plantation, shelterbelt, artificial pond or lake, ornamental, second growth timber, abandoned farmland, row crops, small grains, hay, pasture, plowed, mowed, burned, roadside.

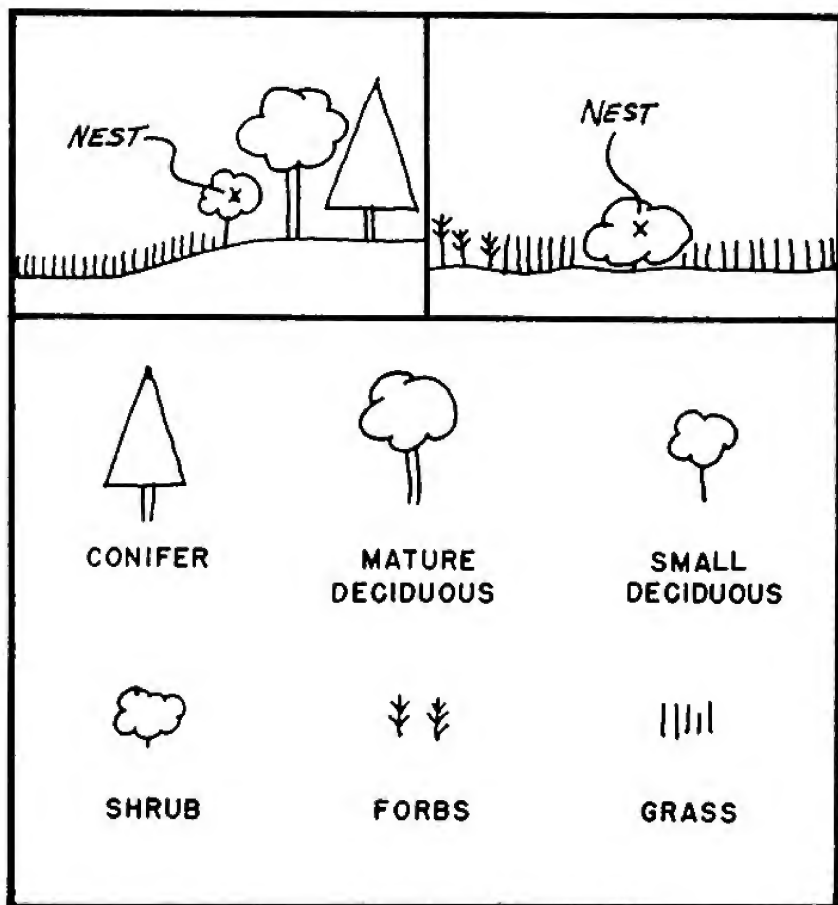


Figure 2. Two examples (upper) of habitat diagrams and a key (lower) for some common plant types.

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## THE 1961 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

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The tribute by Herodotus to the couriers of the Persian emperors, "Neither rain nor snow . . . stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" might very well be applied to many of the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. A total of 191 birders at 23 stations are listed as having tramped through deep snow in sub-freezing temperatures to take the thirtieth Christmas Bird Census. This number includes some duplications as several of the hardier individuals participated in two, three, and even four counts on different days during the period designated. Their combined efforts resulted in 94 species being identified, the same number as last year and only four fewer than the all-time high of 98 reported in 1958. A count in the Yellow River Forest included Wild Turkeys and Decorah reported Green-winged Teal and Red-shafted Flicker, but these are not included in the tabulation due to the lateness of the census reports.

Swainson's Hawk was recorded for the first time, while Snowy Owl, Townsend's Solitaire and Brewer's Blackbird appear in the tabulation for the second time. Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee and Cardinal with the Starling and House Sparrow were reported by all stations. The Downy Woodpecker and Blue Jay were each missed by one.

In contrast to last year there was somewhat of an invasion of the visitors from the north. Bohemian Waxwings were seen at three stations for their first appearance since 1958, while Evening Grosbeaks were reported by 11 stations and were seen during the census period in several other places. The last previous report of this species was 1957. Purple Finches were found at 10 stations compared with only four last year, and Common Redpolls, missing last year were reported from three locations. Rough-legged Hawks were again numerous and 16 stations, the same number as last year, reported them. This year's count of Bald Eagles is 166 compared with 116 a year ago. Davenport, whose last year count of 91 was the highest of any station listed in *Audubon Field Notes*, dropped to 54, but this was more than offset by Clinton's increase from eight to 64 and the 27 reported by Muscatine, a new station.

1. ALEDO, ILL., LAKE ODESSA, IOWA. (Same area as other years). Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 20 to 29; wind N.W. 3 to 5 m.p.h. Cloudy, 6 inches old snow, streams mostly frozen. Observers (17) in 6 parties: Wendell Bergstrom, Lewis Blevins, James Brokaw, Elton Fawks, Donald Hinrichsen, Carroll Greer, May Greer, Richard Greer, Rodney Greer, Theodore Greer, Robert Meyers, Peter Petersen, Jr., Linda Trial, Patty Trial, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial (compiler), Mike Yeast.

Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Brewer's Blackbirds were observed at close range and identified by Richard Greer party. The Elton Fawks party found the Brown Thrasher and Fox Sparrow in a hedge row. Evening Grosbeaks were identified by Peter Petersen, Jr. Oregon Junco was found with other Juncos and Tree Sparrows by Ted Greer party. Snipe were found at a spring which does not freeze and identified by Robert Trial and Fawks parties, with Trial finding the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

2. BACKBONE STATE PARK (and roadsides from Winthrop to Park and return; roads southeast of Winthrop, etc.). Dec. 25; 9 a.m. to 12 m., 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 8 to 15; wind strong from S.E. Cloudy most of the day, some sunshine in the p.m., 8 to 10 inches snow on ground, some deep drifts. Observers (6) in one party in p.m., F. J. Pierce alone in a.m.: Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pierce, Vicki and Sandra Pierce.

Evening Grosbeaks were seen at State Fish Hatchery area in park in good light and observed by all of party.

3. CEDAR FALLS (Snag Creek, Black Hawk Park, Beaver Creek, Union Bridge, Wyth Park, Waterloo Municipal Airport, Black Hawk Creek, and Byrnes Park). Dec. 23; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 25 to 27; wind 15 m.p.h. from N. Cloudy, with 12 inches snow on ground, ponds frozen, river partly open. Observers (11) in 3 parties: Mrs. L. W. Bireline, Eleanor Eifert, Martin L. Grant (compiler), Annette Haffner, Russell Hays, Mabelle Hinkley, Jean Martin, Maxine Schwanke, Florence Spring, George Swanson, George F. Wood.

The Wood Ducks were a pair, the female apparently crippled, and as with the Herring Gull and Evening Grosbeaks were seen by several observers.

4. CEDAR RAPIDS (Cedar Lake, Waterworks and roadsides to Linn Junction, Shaver Park, north along Cedar River, Bever Park, Lakeside, south along the Cedar, Ellis Park, Manhattan, Rosemont Gardens). Dec. 30; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 14 to 16; wind 10 m.p.h. from N.W. Cloudy, light snow in a.m., heavy snow on ground. Observers (10) in 4 parties: Dr. K. E. Goellner, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liljedahl, Dr. A. W. Meyer, Bernd Schuerenberg, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Robert Vane, Jr., Myra Willis.

Townsend's Solitaire seen by four observers, and has been seen at the same place during four days since. (See longer note in General Notes). Common Redpolls were seen in one flock by four observers. Evening Grosbeaks have been at several feeding stations in the city.

5. CLINTON, SAVANNA, FULTON, ILL. (15-mile circle centered at Elk River Junction, same as in previous years, also Savanna Ordnance Depot and Lock 12, Bellevue, Iowa). Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 20; wind 5 to 8 m.p.h. from W. Overcast to clearing, ground covered by 6 inches of snow, river 98% covered. Observers (9) in 4 parties: Lewis Blevins, Don Hinrichsen, H. James Hodges, Mrs. Ross King, Fred Leshner, Rev. Maurice Leshner, Peter C. Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Herb Troester, Mike Yeast.

Fox Sparrow seen at 10 feet in good light by Peter Petersen, Jr., and identified by heavily streaked breast and rufous tail. Lincoln's Sparrow seen at 40 feet in company of Song Sparrows — identified by fine streaks on side of breast by Lewis Blevins, Peter Petersen, Jr., Mike Yeast.

6. DAVENPORT (15-mile circle centered on toll house of Moline-Bettendorf Bridge, same as previous years). Dec. 24; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 12 to 26; wind 7 to 8 m.p.h. from N.N.W. to W. Cloudy in a.m. clearing; ground covered by 10 inches of drifted snow; river 75% ice-covered. Observers (41) in 31 parties: Lewis Blevins, Even Bushmer, Adolph Cabor, Harry Carl, Larry Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Doering, Clark Ehlers, Elton Fawks, T. J. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gold, Ivan Graham, Dr. Herbert Guenther, Karl Hellman, Don Hinrichsen, Leroy Kruger, T. James Lewis, Jr., Mrs. Tom Lewis, Jerry McConoughey, Phillip McDermott, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Mrs. Walter Monger, Don Nelson, Peter Petersen, Jr., (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen, Sr., D. A. Price, Edward Roberts, Joe Schropp, Conrad Sindt, Don Swensson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial, Norman Ward, Mike Yeast.

Broad-winged Hawk — a pair observed at length and identified by two white tail bands, solid colored back, and lack of red shoulder patch, Don Swensson and Robert Trial. Snowy Owl — seen in flight, large size and white coloration noted by Mrs. Robert Trial and Elton Fawks. Common Redpoll — seen at close range by Walter Dau and identified by red patch on forehead and black below bill. Savannah Sparrow — closely observed by Elton Fawks and yellow stripe over eye, notched tail and fine streaks noted.



Lincoln's Sparrow identified by Lewis Blevins — fine streaking on sides and buffy breast.

7. DES MOINES (all points within a 15-mile circle, center at 76th and Hickman, including Glendale and Pine Hill Cemeteries; Dove, Brown's, Kinglet, Crocker and Chas. Sing Denman Woods; Sycamore, Greenwood and Pioneer Parks, and Dale Maffit Reservoir). Dec. 30; 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temp. 0 to 10; wind 5 m.p.h. from S.E. Clear in morning, cloudy in afternoon, 13 inches snow on ground, water frozen. Observers (10) in 5 parties: Albert C. Berkowitz, Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Woodward H. Brown, Oliver Graves, Mrs. Lester Haskell, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Mary Elizabeth Peck, Mary Ellen Wartens.

Oregon Junco was seen in Peasleys' yard on several different days. Two Swainson's Hawks were seen by Dr. and Mrs. Peasley (see longer note in General Notes).

8. DUBUQUE (Linwood and Mt. Calvary Cemeteries, Eagle Point Park, City Island, City Harbor, Dubuque's Grave Area, and Mississippi River Sloughs in Wisconsin). Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 4 to 11; wind 2 to 7 m.p.h. from W. Cloudy with light snow to clear, river open only in small patches. Observers (12) in 2 parties: Frieda and George Crossley, Jenny Dodge, C. O. Johnson, Ruth Larson, Monica Leo, Delbert Ludwig, Ival Schuster, Phyllis Shultz, Duane Timmons, Anna Walton, Judy White.

9. ESTHERVILLE (Ft. Defiance State Park, prairies to Spirit Lake, Ingham and High Lake areas). Dec. 22; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 24 to 14; wind 0 to 25 m.p.h. from N. Foggy in a.m. with snow showers in p.m., 1 foot of snow on ground. Observers (4) in 1 party: Helen La Doux, Pearl Osher, Mr. and Mrs. Myrle Jones.

White-throated Sparrows were at the home of Fred Wolden at High Lake. Oregon Juncos were at a feeder in the Park, and one at Fred Wolden's.

10. FAIRFIELD (Evergreen Cemetery and area north to city waterworks, Bessie Whitham farm west of city, the area south of the disposal system). Dec. 31; cold, windy and cloudy. Observers (6) in 2 parties: Dr. La Verne Deerkee, Fred Johnson, Ben Taylor, Floyd W. Von Ohlen, Dr. James White, Mrs. James White.

11. GOLDFIELD (10-mile circle centered at Goldfield). Dec. 29; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 5 to 15; wind 23 to 31 m.p.h. from N.W. Clear, 12 inches snow on ground. Observer: Dean M. Roosa.

12. GRUNDY CENTER (to Eldora and Steamboat Rock and Pine Lake territory). Dec. 21; 10:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp. 30, wind 15 m.p.h. from N. to N.W. Sun shining, becoming cloudy, humidity 78%, 12 inches snow on ground. Observers (2) together: Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Brown.

13. IOWA CITY (15-mile circle, including Iowa City, Lake Macbride, Coralville Reservoir, and west). Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 10 to 25; wind 3 m.p.h. from S.W. Snow flurries in a.m., fair in p.m. 6 to 8 inches snow cover, lakes, river and ponds frozen. Observers (8) in 3 parties: Bob Kent, Dr. T. H. Kent, F. W. Kent, Dr. and Mrs. P. P. Laude, Dr. and Mrs. Max Pepernik, W. M. Weld.

14. LAMONI (Farm land, roadsides, woods and farm yards within 5 miles of Lamoni, plus observations at one feeder). Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 20 to 25; wind 5 m.p.h. from N.W. Cloudy and clearing in p.m., 12 inches of snow cover with many deeper drifts, creeks and ponds frozen. Observers (7) in 3 parties: Madeline Ballantyne, Billy Gillaspay, J. Donald Gillaspay, Rita Reynard, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver, Cecil Teale.

Screech Owl observed by J. Donald Gillaspay in stock shed.

15. LANSING (Mississippi River valley from Minnesota boundary at New Albin to Capoli Point — 5 miles southeast of Lansing). Dec. 27; 9 a.m.

	1. Alledo	2. State Park	3. Cedar Falls	4. Cedar Rapids	5. Clinton	6. Davenport	7. Des Moines	8. Dubuque	9. Estherville	10. Fairfield	11. Goldfield	12. Grundy Center	13. Iowa City	14. Lamoni	15. Lansing	16. Lehigh	17. Manning	18. Muscatine	19. Northwood	20. Oden	21. Pine Hollow	22. Sioux City	23. Waterloo
Mallard	12		5	427	13	18		5			1												
Black Duck				9		1																	
Wood Duck			2*																				
Redhead				2		2																	
Canvasback				2		2																	
Lesser Scaup				15	8	377		2															
Common Goldeneye	73																						
Hooded Merganser						1																	
Common Merganser	14		7	1	600	299		6															
Red-breasted Merganser						2																	
Goshawk	1*							1															
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3				1																		
Cooper's Hawk	4		1		2																		
Red-tailed Hawk	42		2	4	33	42	7				3	2	29	9	3	1	2	15	1	1	2	5	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	8		1	4	10	2		2			1												
Broad-winged Hawk	1*					2*																	
Swainson's Hawk																							
Rough-legged Hawk	12	2	4		10	13	2		3		6	3	1			1				2		1	14
Golden Eagle																							
Bald Eagle	13		1		64	54		5			1												1
Marsh Hawk	3		1		1	2																	2
Sparrow Hawk	13	1	1	2	3	14	5				2		1	3	1	1	2	9	1	5		13	
Ruffed Grouse																							
Bobwhite	97				5	35																	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	37	35	10	3	103	10		161		304	45	3	1		8	406		47	82	1	35	117
Common Snipe	4*		1*	1	13	1							2			12							
Herring Gull	3				4	366																	
Ring-billed Gull					142																		
Mourning Dove	207	2	2	75	350	262	12	3	1		7		13	33		3	1	34		2	2		19
Screech Owl	2															1*	1	2					1
Great Horned Owl	11	1			1	1					1	2	1	1*		2		2					3
Snowy Owl																							
Barred Owl	5			3	2	1		1					2					1					1
Long-eared Owl	6				1																		
Short-eared Owl	2	1	1	1		2							1										
Saw-whet Owl																							
Belted Kingfisher	1		1	3		2		2															
Yellow-shafted Flicker																							
Pileated Woodpecker	48	1	2	2	20	11	7	2	3		2		2	7		4	3	9		3	1	1	16
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	1	3		2			1															
Red-headed Woodpecker	60	2	6	8	39	44	15	9	3	1	1		16	8	4	2	1	28			7	1	16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	35	3	1	36	11	20		11		5		5	18	9	1	3	1	10			2		13
Hairy Woodpecker	2*																						
Dowry Woodpecker	15		11	7	4	42	3	3	2	3	5	5	5	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	5	2
Horned Lark	73		25	28	39	105	31	9	13	2	9	4	15	7	4	7	20	7	20	4	7	2	19
	185	8	7	2	25	56	8	2	48	1	22	11	16	68		36	3	72	4	9	4	150	61

# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

11

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Blue Jay	243	6	40	74	160	186	45	42	4	13	3	5	37	29	16	4	2	82	5	19	20	21	22	23
Common Crow	397	32	275	202	408	161	27	49	4	8	72	22	15	23	6	18	27	113	17	19	16	65	393	
Black-capped Chickadee	142	1	116	101	102	231	96	28	65	4	32	30	38	56	17	21	18	17	15	5	3	31	49	
Tufted Titmouse	58	5	11	16	38	62	23	14	3	5	4	4	17	10	4	3	5	21	9	7	3	10	14	
White-breasted Nuthatch	50	1	60	31	22	91	35	11	12	4	7	2	14	10	7	4	5	21	9	7	3	10	14	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	1	4	2	14	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown Creeper	3	7	4	2	17	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Winter Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Carolina Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mockingbird	1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown Thrasher	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Robin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Eastern Bluebird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Townsend's Solitaire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Bohemian Waxwing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cedar Waxwing	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Northern Shrike	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Shrike sp.	1350	150	200	316	896	8210	540	752	4	2	110	10	212	158	1	40	40	709	39	73	57	7500	558	
Starling	2629	75	609	295	1233	2822	475	508	465	45	65	55	520	480	77	55	85	2363	100	37	129	850	833	
House Sparrow	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Eastern Meadowlark	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Western Meadowlark	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Meadowlark sp.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Redwinged Blackbird	40	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Rusty Blackbird	60*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brewer's Blackbird	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Common Grackle	480	4	90	66	203	258	139	26	8	7	3	14	77	92	26	3	2	229	5	2	14	36	19	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3*	4*	7	11*	57	30	6	6	1	5	5	3	11	3	4*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Cardinal	41	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Evening Grosbeak	67	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Purple Finch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Common Redpoll	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pine Siskin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
American Goldfinch	1312	15	86	100	638	703	116	59	18	40	50	26	81	115	25	38	19	696	31	26	13	230	27	
Savannah Sparrow	1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Slate-colored Junco	1122	10	56	38	443	715	8	38	7	2	9	25	186	199	12	16	5	872	12	31	2	50	30	
Oregon Junco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Tree Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Field Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Harris Sparrow	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	1*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
White-throated Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Fox Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lincoln's Sparrow	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Swamp Sparrow	34	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Song Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lapland Longspur	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Snow Bunting	66	23	44	41	53	70	38	31	28	16	34	18	38	29	20	33	20	48	20	20	19	32	32	
Number of Species	17	61	11	10	9	41	10	12	4	6	1	2	8	7	1	2	1	7	3	2	2	11	18	

Total Iowa List, 94 Species

\* See data under station in body of article  
 \*\* No estimate made of numbers in flocks seen

to 4 p.m. Temp. 4 to 15; wind 5 m.p.h. from W. Very clear with 9 inches snow on ground. Observer: LeRoy Sowl.

16. LEHIGH (15-mile diameter circle, including Dolliver State Park and Woodman Hollow State Park). Dec. 27; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 15 to 24; wind 13 to 18 m.p.h. from S. Clear with 12 to 14 inches snow on ground. Observers (2) together: Mrs. Lambert Runquist, Dean M. Roosa.

Evening Grosbeaks seen at feeder at distance of 2 feet. Screech Owl was caught in hawk trap, banded and released.

17. MANNING (7-mile radius circle centered at Manning). Dec. 31; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 0 to 12; wind 24 to 31 m.p.h. from N. Cloudy with ground covered with 14 inches of snow. Observer: Dean M. Roosa.

18. MUSCATINE (all points within a 15-mile circle, center Lock and Dam #16, including Wildcat's Den State Park, Weed Park and Big Sand Mound). Jan. 1; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 8 to 24; wind 7 to 15 m.p.h. from N.W. Partly cloudy, clearing, overcast, ground covered with 5 to 8 inches of old snow. River 90% ice covered. Observers (7) in 3 parties: Ted Greer, Don Hinrichsen, Peter C. Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Dorothy Toyne, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial, Mike Yeast.

Golden Eagle seen at 200 yards both perched and in flight through 40x scope in fair light, identified by light tail with dark terminal band and white area at base of primaries — Peter Petersen Jr. and Don Hinrichsen. Lincoln's Sparrow — 3 seen at close range, buffy breast with fine streaks noted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trial and Ted Greer. Snow Bunting — seen in flight and on ground along road, all field marks noted by Mr. and Mrs. Trial and Ted Greer.

19. NORTHWOOD (3 miles N.W., 7 miles S.E., roadsides, open country and woodlands). Dec. 28; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 5; wind 12 m.p.h. from N.W. Cloudy to cloudy-bright with 13 inches snow on the level. Observers (3) together: Mrs. John Bottleman, Mrs. Fred Oetken, C. Geneva Rue.

Juncos, apparently Oregon species, seen daily at Mrs. Oetken's feeder.

20. OGDEN (7-mile radius circle centering on Keenan home 8 miles southwest of Ogden, farm lands, roads and ditches, creek bottoms and woods). Dec. 26; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Temp. 18 to 29; wind 8 m.p.h. from S.W. Cloudy, 20 inches of snow on ground, creeks frozen over. Observers (2) together: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Keenan.

21. PINE HOLLOW FOREST PRESERVE (various country roads between Farley and the Preserve). Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 20, wind 4 to 10 m.p.h. from W. Cloudy to mostly clear to cloudy, 13 inches of old snow. Observers (2) together: George and Frieda Crossley.

22. SIOUX CITY (same as previous year). Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 25; wind 17 m.p.h. from N.W. Overcast, poor light, ground covered with 10 inches of snow on level, fence lines and ditches drifted, lakes and rivers, except Missouri, frozen. Observers (11) in 6 parties: Mrs. W. W. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Davison, Harry Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Alden J. Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Robert L. Nickolson.

23. WATERLOO (15-mile circle centering sec. 2, Maxfield Twp., Bremer Co., including Bremer Co. Park of the Seven Bridges, Sweet Marsh Refuge, Crane Creek, Plum Creek, Big Woods near Denver, and farmlands of area). Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 6 to 16; wind 0 to 6 m.p.h. from N.W. Cloudy, snow falling most of time, light poor, 12 to 30 inches of snow on ground, running water infrequent. Observers (18) in 2 parties: Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Mabel Dingsley, Dr. Martin L. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hancher, Annette Haffner, Helen Hawkins, Russell Hays, Clarice Hewitt, Mabelle



In early winter a Saw-whet Owl was found in the same cedar tree several times —  
a winter roost?



But on the count day the tree was so covered with snow that a bird could not have  
used it — so no Saw-whet  
Photos by F. W. Kent.

Hinckley, John E. Moeding, Thomas Moon, Larane Mott, Margaret Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Nick Osness, George Swanson.

#### ADDITIONAL BIRD NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CENSUSES.

Aledo.—Lesser Scaup, Carolina Wren and Northern Shrike were also seen during the count period.

Cedar Rapids.—On the two days following the count these additional species were seen: Ring-necked Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Meadowlark sp. and Lapland Longspur.

Des Moines.—A Red-headed Woodpecker and a Screech Owl were seen during the census period.

Estherville.—Myrtle Jones remarked upon the few Tree Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos and the fact that one Short-eared Owl was the only member of that family to be found. Two Evening Grosbeaks were seen three days before the count but could not be found later.

Grundy Center.—A flock of 34 Bohemian Waxwings was found on Dec. 26. Other species located during the period were Sparrow Hawk, Screech Owl, Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers and Tufted Titmouse.

Iowa City.—Bohemian Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird and Pine Siskin were other species seen during the census period.

Lamoni.—Rough-legged Hawk, Bobwhite, Great Horned Owl, Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch were seen during the period but not on the day of the count.

Lansing.—Species missed on the census were Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Mourning Dove, Meadowlark sp. and Red-winged Blackbird. The Belted Kingfisher was an unexpected find due to the severity of the weather this winter.

Lehigh.—A Belted Kingfisher was another species seen during the count period.

Muscatine.—The Brown Creeper was seen in the area but not on count day.

Northwood.—A Brown Creeper and six Pine Siskins as well as a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers were missed on the census.

Ogden.—Six or more Short-eared Owls were seen several times just prior to the census but could not be found. A Red-headed Woodpecker was also seen two days earlier.

Pine Hollow.—Hairy Woodpecker and Song Sparrow were seen a day or two before the count. A second count made on Jan. 2 (after the census period) turned up 27 species, due possibly to somewhat higher temperatures.

Sioux City.—After the results of the census had been reported it was learned that about a dozen Evening Grosbeaks had been frequenting a home feeder for several weeks.

Harold H. Burgess writes that there was no Christmas Bird Count due to a blizzard on their scheduled count day, and "the compiler plunged through the ice for a frigid bath on the alternate day." We are also sorry to learn of Harold's transfer in February to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge at Mound City, Mo.

#### Additional Censuses Received too Late for Inclusion in the Table.

Decorah, Iowa. (All points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center N.E. corner Sec. 24 T99N R8W, including Decorah Parks, Upper Iowa River, Bear Creek, Trout River, Canoe Creek, Highlandville; river and creek bottoms 35%, open fields 30%, brush and timber 30%, city 5%). December 30, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature—28°F to 30°F; wind S., 10 mph., 16" snow cover, water 90% ice covered. Eighteen observers in 4 parties. Total party hours,

29—10 on foot, 19 by car; Total party miles 237—13 on foot, 224 by car.

Species: Mallard—4, Green-winged Teal—1 (Drake, seen by 4), Lesser Scaup—1 (seen by 4), Common Goldeneye—1 (Seen by 6), Red-tailed Hawk—22, Red-shouldered Hawk—1, Roughlegged Hawk—1, Ruffed Grouse—9, Ring-necked Pheasant—16, Killdeer—3, Common Snipe—4, Mourning Dove—7, Barn Owl—1, Great Horned Owl—2, Belted Kingfisher—13, Yellow-shafted Flicker—2, Red-shafted Flicker—1 (no details, a questionable record—ed.), Pileated Woodpecker—4, Red-bellied Woodpecker—33, Red-headed Woodpecker—71 (unusually large number this year), Hairy Woodpecker—8, Downy Woodpecker—22, Horned Lark—10, Blue Jay—198, Common Crow—96, Black-capped Chickadee—102, Tufted Titmouse—49, White-breasted Nuthatch—54, Golden-crowned Kinglet—1, Northern Shrike—3, Starling—62, House Sparrow—200, Rusty Blackbird—1, Cardinal—259, Evening Grosbeak—6 (seen by 14 observers), Purple Finch—4, American Goldfinch—21, Slate-colored Junco—104, Tree Sparrow—111, Song Sparrow—1. Total 40 species, 1525 individuals.

Observers: Mrs. Florence Albright, David Anciaux, Bruce Brooks, Bob Daubendiek (compiler), Martha Edwards, V. A. Edwards, Elsie Henning, Olivind Hovde, George Knudson, Karl Knudson, Darwin Koenig, Arlo Raim, Arnold Rohm, Delores Rohm, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schultz, and Anna Taeger.

**Shenandoah.** December 30, temperature -2°F to 24°F; cloudy, snow flurries; two feet of snow on ground.

Species: Red-tailed Hawk—4, Roughlegged Hawk—4, Marsh Hawk—1, Sparrow Hawk—4, Common Snipe—3, Mourning Dove—7, Yellow-shafted Flicker—5, Red-bellied Woodpecker—5, Downy Woodpecker—8, Horned Lark—20, Blue Jay—20, Common Crow—14, Black-capped Chickadee—19, Tufted Titmouse—1, White-breasted Nuthatch—4, Golden-crowned Kinglet—2, Loggerhead Shrike—1, Starling—354, House Sparrow—530, Eastern Meadowlark—20, Western Meadowlark—48, Redwinged Blackbird—84, Rusty Blackbird—42, Common Grackle—23, Brown-headed Cowbird—12, Cardinal—71, Slate-colored Junco—182, Tree Sparrow—58, Harris Sparrow—6, White-crowned Sparrow—6, Song Sparrow—47. Total: 31 species; 1605 individuals. Two observers in 1 party: Mrs. Robert I. Bordner and Mrs. Francis M. Braley (compiler).

**Yellow River Forest Area and Harpers Ferry, Iowa.** 15 mile circle center N.E. corner Sec. 8 T96N R3W. December 31, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature 16°F to 28°F; wind 12 mph. from NW; weather overcast and ground cover, 12" to 16" snow, Mississippi frozen except 200' at Dam and one acre open water in channel near Gordon's Bay, Bloody Run Creek open. Four observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8—3 on foot, 5 by car; total party miles—65—5 on foot, 60 by car.

Species: Lesser Scaup—2, Common Merganser—12, Red-tailed Hawk—4, Red-shouldered Hawk—2, Bald Eagle—2, Ruffed Grouse—3, Wild Turkey—33, Common Snipe—6, Belted Kingfisher—4, Pileated Woodpecker—1, Red-bellied Woodpecker—15, Red-headed Woodpecker—13, Hairy Woodpecker—1, Downy Woodpecker—4, Blue Jay—36, Common Crow—21, Black-capped Chickadee—10, Tufted Titmouse—4, White-breasted Nuthatch—17, Winter Wren—2, Starling—110, Redwing Blackbird—14, Common Grackle—8, Cardinal—26, American Goldfinch—1, Slate-colored Junco—24, Tree Sparrow—2. Total 27 species, 377 individuals. (no House Sparrows? ed.)

Observers: Robert Daubendiek (compiler), Darwin Koenig, Arlo Raim, Roy Schultz. Total of 33 Wild Turkeys seen including 31 in the air at one time. Numerous individuals of the 33 observed several times over a two hour period.

This count was made by a former Tri-City ornithologist presently in the Armed Service. It is included to show the volume of birds in the tropics. ed.

**FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT, CANAL ZONE.**—Area covered: Circle has Margarita, Canal Zone as center (generally in area of Colon, Panama, as seen on map). Areas covered include jungle on and near Ft. Gulick, C.Z., jungle near Gatun Locks, C.Z. Chagres River below Gatun Spillway, Gatun Lake from Gatun Spillway, Dec. 25, 1961. Partly cloudy; temperature 75°-80°F., humid (almost constant factor here). One observer. Total man hours 8 (7 on foot, 1 by car) 15 miles by car, 4 on foot. Olivaceous Cormorant—13, Little Blue Heron—10, Snowy Egret—9, Cattle Egret—1, Tricolored Heron—1, Black Vulture—34, Turkey Vulture—22, Marsh Hawk—1, Spotted Sandpiper—2, Laughing Gull—25, Franklin's Gull—1, Royal Tern—1, Plain-breasted Ground Dove—19, Ruddy Ground Dove—1, White-tipped Dove—5, Gray-chested Dove—2, Ruddy Quail-Dove—1, Orange-chinned Parakeet—25, Red-fored Parrot—4, Smooth-billed Ani—9, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird—3, Slaty-tailed Trogon—2, Rufous Motmot—1, Black-cheeked Woodpecker—1, Olivaceous Woodcreeper—1, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper—1, Straight-billed Woodcreeper—1, Streak-headed Woodcreeper—1, Plain Xenops—4, Streaked Antwren—1, Slaty Antshrike—1, Chestnut-backed Antbird—1, Golden-collared Manakin—6, Tropical Kingbird—14, Eastern Kingbird—12, Gray Kingbird—2, Piratic Flycatcher—3, Rusty-margined Flycatcher—1, Social Flycatcher—1, Yellow-margined Flycatcher—1, White-eyed Tyrant—1, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet—1, Brownish Flycatcher—1, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet—1, Gray-breasted Martin—60, Mangrove Swallow—33, Black-chested Jay—8, Buff-breasted Wren—1, Black-bellied Wren—1, Song Wren-nesting—2, Tropical Mockingbird—1, Clay-colored Robin—24, Yellow-green Vireo—1, Golden-fronted Greenlet—1, Green Honeycreeper—2, Prothonotory Warbler—1, Bay-breasted Warbler—1, Northern Waterthrush—4, American Redstart—1, Chestnut-headed Oropendola—4, Scarlet-rumped Cacique—3, Yellow-billed Cacique—5, Boat-tailed Grackle—5, Yellow-tailed Oriole—2, Yellow-backed Oriole—1, Thick-billed Euphonia—1, Blue-gray Tanager—7, Palm Tanager—7, Crimson-backed Tanager—3, Yellow-rumped Tanager—4, Dusky-tailed Ant Tanager—18, White-shouldered Tanager—2, White-lined Tanager—1, Buff-throated Saltator—7, Streaked Saltator—2, Variable Seedeater—1, Green-backed Sparrow—2. 78 species, 468 individuals seen in 171 observations.—Dennis Sheets.

Notes—Although in terms of number of species seen it was a good day, there were some outstanding failures. Noteworthy were:

1. Poor showing in hummingbirds, of which there were some 30 species observable. Only saw one species, although several unidentifiable individuals (females, rapidly flying over, etc.). Normally see 3-4 species per day and up to 9-10.

2. Small numbers of Vultures. (Did not go to Colon, Rep. of Panama, which, although in radius of circle, is not in U.S. territory—where, because of the inordinate amount of rubbish piles—they abound—could have counted some 200-300 Blacks and 100 Turkey.)

3. Poor showing on Cattle Egrets. They follow the herd at Mindi Dairy which was out of sight. Three days before counted some 75-80.

4. Poor showing on shorebirds. Only visited one habitat, which for some reason, was devoid of shorebirds that day. Often has several wintering species in small numbers.

5. Exceedingly small number of finch individuals (Seedeaters and Grassquits). Due, I suspect, to fact that rainy season has just ended and the seedbearing grasses found along all roadsides have not yet dried out to produce seeds which attract these species in large numbers.

6. General failure to record large numbers of individuals was due to fact that most of the day was spent in jungle birding, which by nature pro-



duces a large number of species, although number of individuals is always small.

7. One characteristic of birding in the American tropical jungles is that you can cover the same area on several successive days and each time find several species not seen previously, and by the same token not see species previously seen. I would estimate that if I were to cover the same areas again which I covered today I would find a 20-25% difference that is, 20% species I did not see today and not see 20% of ones I saw today.

## SPRING CONVENTION MAY 11-13 AT CEDAR FALLS

Our spring convention will be held at the Bible Conference Grounds, Riverview Park, Cedar Falls, Iowa. All sessions and meals will be at the grounds. The Cedar Falls Audubon Society is going all out to make this one of the most successful conventions ever held. Riverview Park is a beautiful wooded area with ample opportunities for birding. Field trips are being planned for Saturday and Sunday mornings by Dr. Martin Grant.

On Friday evening the Cedar Falls Audubon Society will serve refreshments and show the film "The Valley and the Stream" by James Wilkie. Registration will be at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday morning following the field trip. The paper session speakers include the Peasleys, Mrs. John Lueshen of Nebraska and J. P. Moore. Program Chairman Dean Roose plans to hold another slidefest. All members are urged to bring up to ten slides to be turned over to Dean by noon on Saturday. The speaker for the banquet will be Dr. Paul Errington of Iowa State University. Dr. Errington is doubtless the top naturalist in Iowa, and he will show us slides taken during a recent trip to Sweden and talk on "Swedish Birds". Breakfast on Sunday will be at 4:30 A.M. followed by the field trips and luncheon at Riverview Park at 12:30.

Housing is available at the grounds or at Cedar Falls hotels and motels. Advance registration forms and more details will be mailed out by the local committee on April 15, 1962. All sessions will be held on Central Standard Time. It is hoped every member will make plans to attend.

## GENERAL NOTES REPORTS

November was cool and wet, with several light snowfalls. December, with 23.9" of snow in Des Moines, had the heaviest snowfall there in 84 years of record-keeping, and was the seventh coldest on record. Temperatures were 7.7° below normal. January was the coldest in twenty-one years, and many parts of the state had knee-deep snow for weeks. The reports of the Christmas Bird Counts described the weather on those dates, and birding conditions improved little, if any, in the ensuing four or five weeks.

**Waterfowl.** An Eared Grebe at Lock #13 on the Mississippi on November 19 was reported by Terance Ingram. (PP). Flocks of geese were still passing over the Davenport area in the second and third weeks of December. (PP). A flock of Mallards fed near the Missouri River at Sioux City from early November to mid-January. (WY). The Mallards which were expected to winter at Des Moines were considerably fewer than in most years, and left early in December after a seven-inch snow. There were 300 Lesser Scaup above Lock #9 at Harper's Ferry, (FL), and 300 to 500 divers, mostly scaups, near LeClaire until December 10, (PP). A Common Goldeneye was sighted January 23 on the Upper Iowa at Decorah. (FL). A few Common Mergansers were on the Missouri near Sioux City on January 19. (WY).

**Hawks.** A Goshawk was seen January 17 at Lock #14, (EF). Red-tailed were plentiful at Lamoni until December 18 when a heavy snow concealed

the mice which had been numerous. (DG). The usual numbers were seen at Sioux City, with six to nine being observed each trip, including two melanistic birds in November and December. (WY). There were 10 at Harper's Ferry on December 5. (FL). Rough-legged were not uncommon and were seen from November 14 to January 29 at Sioux City. (WY). A Golden Eagle was at Credit Island on January 1. (EF). Eight Bald Eagles, seven of which were adults, were seen at Harper's Ferry on December 5 by R. W. Daubendiek, (FL). Jim Keenan of Ogden in December saw his first in Boone Co., and Mrs. L. W. Haskell of Des Moines reports an adult was seen near Carlisle on February 3. Marsh Hawks, like the Red-tailed were numerous at Lamoni, but were driven out by the heavy snow in mid-December. They were not common at Sioux City, being seen on only one day. (WY), and their numbers at Davenport were down, (PP), with none at Iowa City. (FK). There was one Prairie Falcon record at Sioux City. (WY). Sparrow Hawks were up around Davenport, (PP), but left Lamoni after December 18. (DG).

**Bob-white, Pheasant.** The weather forced some Bob-whites around Clinton to feed in a barnyard. (FL). Pheasants were scarce around Lamoni. (DG).

**Shorebirds.** Some Common Snipe were wintering in Davenport, (PP), Decorah, (FL), and Iowa City (GK). A Killdeer stayed at Siewer's Spring and three Pectoral Sandpipers were at Decorah as late as November 5. (FL).

**Doves.** At Davenport Mourning Doves were "quite common locally", (PP), and considerable numbers were staying at Des Moines.

**Owls.** Great Horned Owls were not as numerous as usual at Lamoni. (DG). Snowy Owls were observed by Eldon J. Bryant of Akron; one at his home, and another near Westfield. (WY). Mrs. Clarence Hilburn of Nevada saw one northeast of Atlantic on Christmas Day. Neither Long-eared nor Short-eared could be found at Lake Macbride. (FK). One Long-eared was reported from Sioux City. (WY), and one from Iowa City where there was also one Short-eared. (FK). There were many Short-eared at Lamoni from November 1 until the heavy snow, with from three to fourteen seen daily. (DG). Five were seen December 29 near Luton. (WY), and one at Cresco December 15. (FL).

**Kingfisher.** One reported wintering on Credit Island, and one from McCausland. (PP).

**Woodpeckers.** Pileated are "still increasing" and many Redheads wintering. (PP). Six Redheads were seen in ten miles along the Upper Iowa River valley. (FL). There are many more than usual, 10 to 12 per trip in places, at Iowa City, (FK), but very few around Des Moines.

**Horned Lark.** These are scarce at Lamoni, and stay close to feedlots. (DG). Fewer than usual are found around Des Moines, but they are in normal numbers or even above normal at Davenport. (PP).

**Blue Jays.** There seem considerably more Blue Jays than usual in Des Moines despite the weather.

**Chickadees, Nuthatches.** A Boreal Chickadee was banded by Peter C. Petersen, Jr. on November 19 on the Illinois side near Lock #13. Red-breasted Nuthatches are reported more common than usual at Davenport with 15 banded compared with only one last fall (PP), but there seem few elsewhere.

**Mockingbird.** Paul Leaverton reports seeing one north of Lake Ahquabi State Park on Christmas Day and twice in January.

**Robins.** There seem the usual number in the west-central part of the state (WY), but there has been only one seen by Petersen, and that at Clinton. Des Moines, where there are usually some, had none.

**Solitaires.** There were several seen in Sioux City (WY), two in Cedar Rapids, and one in Des Moines (see longer note).

**Kinglets.** There have been no reports of Ruby-crowned, but Golden-crowned are wintering at Davenport in usual numbers. (PP). The last observation in Sioux City was November 2. (WY).

**Waxwings.** This has truly been a Bohemian Waxwing winter with good-sized flocks reported from a number of points. There were more than 100 at Lamoni late in January, (DG); Dr. M. L. Grant saw a flock in Cedar Falls, and in Sioux City "flocks numbering as many as 150 were not rare." (WY). Reports in Des Moines ranged from a single bird to flocks of about 100. Lillian Serbousek saw between 50 and 75 in Cedar Rapids on January 14, and 44 were in the yard of Dr. Peter Laude in Iowa City on January 21. (FK). Several flocks of 60 to 150 in the Tri-City Area in late Jan. (PP). In the excitement caused by the Bohemians there is little mention of Cedar Waxwings other than Petersen's statement that these are down in Davenport.

**Shrikes.** As was the case with hawks and owls, shrikes were driven out of Lamoni by the heavy snow. (DG).

**Icterids.** Meadowlarks were wintering in good numbers at Davenport despite the snow, (PP), and more numerous than in some winters at Lamoni, (DG), but there seem fewer than usual at Des Moines. Blackbirds are not wintering in normal numbers but are in "good variety" around Davenport. (PP). Mrs. Robert Bordner and Mrs. F. M. Braley at Shenandoah saw two young male Baltimore Orioles at a feeder on December 10. A flock of 50 Brown-headed Cowbirds near Des Moines on January 27 was an unusual winter record.

**Fringillids.** On January 2 Mrs. Wanda Price of Bettendorf had a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at her feeder and the bird returned almost daily to Jan. 22. Evening Grosbeaks are "a very common bird at many feeders in Davenport, (PP), Lamoni reports seven on January 3, (DG), Shenandoah, two males in December 11, (Mrs. Braley), Decorah, one on December 29, (DA), and one was near Lansing on December 21, (DA-FL). There were two at Indianola the third week in January (Paul Leaverton), and "more than usual at Sioux City," (WY). Leaverton reports one in Des Moines at the home of Mr. Widney of the Conservation Commission. Purple Finches are in fair numbers at Davenport feeders, (PP), and more numerous than usual at Des Moines and Sioux City. (WY). A flock of 20 was seen at Decorah early in January, (FL). Russell Hays found a flock of Common Redpolls in December in Waterloo but they left immediately and Mrs. Hewett at Jesup saw 10 the following day. Pine Siskins were common in Sioux City in November and early December, but apparently did not stay. (WY), Mrs. Braley has had 15 White-crowned Sparrows at her feeder. There have been many Song Sparrows on Credit Island (PP), and Des Moines seemed to have more than usual. There were two sightings of Longspurs at Lamoni in November but none since. (DG). They were not common in Sioux City with one flock of 25 on December 27. (WY). The only other report is of a flock of 72 at Cresco. (FL). Snow Buntings were mentioned as having been at Lamoni in November only, and Hays reports the Barlows found them south of Hudson while searching for the Redpolls. Contributors—Dave Anciaux, Elton Fawks, Donald Gillaspey, Fred Kent, Fred Leshner, Peter C. Petersen, Jr., William Youngworth. WOODWARD BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

**Carolina Chickadee in Southwest Iowa.** A letter from Mrs. Edwin A. Getscher of Hamburg tells of a visit on January 22 to the home of I.O.U. members Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Eaton of Sidney, and lists about 20 species seen on the trip. Mrs. Getscher reports that among the birds which visited the window feeder at the Eaton home were about a dozen chickadees, the group being composed of both Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. The identification was made by comparing plumage differences as given in Pet-

erson and Pough. WOODWARD BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

**Sprague's Pipit in Iowa.** Jim Keenan of Ogden raises an interesting question regarding the abundance in Iowa of the Sprague's Pipit. Jack Musgrove's check-list published in 1949 as a supplement to the **Iowa Conservationist** lists the species as "Rare" and the **Iowa Distributional Check-list** in 1954 calls it an "Accidental or Straggler." Dr. F. L. Roberts reported it from Spirit Lake in 1949, Dr. Laude has a 1950 record at Amana, it was found at Brenton's Slough near Des Moines on an I.O.U. Spring Meeting field trip in 1954, and one was seen at the same place in 1958 by Albert Berkowitz and the writer.

The **A.O.U. Check-list**, 5th Ed., shows its breeding range as generally northwest of Iowa, but says it sometimes winters to the southeast so that some individuals should go through the state in migration. The four records referred to are all spring dates, but Mr. Keenan's records in 1949, 1950, 1959, and 1961 are all fall dates. He says he sees almost as many Sprague's as Water Pipits, and would like to know what other records the members of the I.O.U. may have. The species has been recorded regularly in recent winters by Richard Graber in southern Illinois. WOODWARD BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

**Townsend's Solitaire in Cedar Rapids.** It was my privilege and pleasure to end birding in 1961 with the observation of a species never before recorded in this area—that of the Townsend's Solitaire. On December 30, while censusing the southwest section of our area, Dr. Karl Goellner, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liljedahl and I saw two of these birds in Rosemont Gardens, a nursery which is located two or three miles southwest of the Cedar Rapids city limits, in Linn County. Plantings of many conifers make this a likely area for certain species of birds and it was among these trees that we were first attracted to the birds by their beautiful, soft song. They soon came into view and made short flights from tree to tree and across a nursery road so we were able to see their field marks for correct identification.

The next day Drs. Robert Vane and Alfred Meyer, Seddie Cogswell, Robbie Vane and Bernd Schuerenberg, an A.F.S. student from Germany visited the area and saw one of the solitaires. It was seen at distances of twenty feet against the evergreens showing the markings well. At one time, the bird flew to the ground to drink from a small pool just ten feet from one observer. Dr. Harold Ennis saw the bird on January 2nd.

I again heard the solitaire sing on January 7th. The song was similar to a Robin's but fainter. The bird then flew into near-by Cedar trees where it fed on the berries, not at all disturbed by my presence. LILLIAN SERBOUSEK, 1226 2nd Street S.W., Cedar Rapids.

**A Prairie Hen in Sioux City.** On March 21, 1935, the writer saw seven Prairie Chickens near Sioux City and that was the last time until January 13, 1962. On this day Mrs. Youngworth and I were just coming into the Combination Bridge interchange in downtown Sioux City, when a lone Prairie Chicken took off from the base of Prospect Hill and flew across four lanes of busy traffic in front of our car, and planed to a landing in the grass and weeds on the edge of the Missouri River. The large flights of female Prairie Chickens that formerly came down into Iowa in the winter must be nearly a thing of the past and that is why the writer thought even the report of a single bird was worthy of mention. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 2nd Street, Sioux City Iowa.

**Bohemian Waxwings at Lamoni.** A number of local people enjoyed the rare opportunity of observing Bohemian Waxwings here on January 28 and 29, 1962. At midmorning on the 28th this writer noticed a flock of birds in a small tree in the Gillaspay farmyard,—too large to be sparrows and dif-

ferent somehow from Starlings. On second look we ran for the binoculars. Seen thru the glasses, the birds proved to be waxwings and because of the white spots on the wings surely the rare Bohemian species. Then we ran to the telephone and called several parties in Lamoni who would be interested. Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Hodges soon drove out and for more than half an hour we had the pleasure of observing this flock.

During all this time the main portion of the birds remained perched in a small cottonwood sapling. Small groups at intervals flew to and from two nearby plantings of multiflora rose and also to a small cluster of milkweeds protruding from a snowbank. We made several counts above 80 birds perched at one time in the tree. If to this were added the number of birds in flight, feeding on the ground, and in bushes it would be well over 100. We purposely remained about 40 yards away all the time for fear of scaring the birds away, but in the quiet sunshine we had a wonderful view with binoculars.

We could hear the call notes of the waxwings quite distinctly, probably up to a distance of 150 yards. Peterson's "low ZREE ZREE" describes the notes very well. Some call notes of the Starling have a resemblance, also to some extent the feeding notes of young woodpeckers in the nest. The distinctive character of the Bohemian note is the uniformity,—same pitch, same rate, same volume continuously coming from the flock. Almost like a slow motion buzzing of bees. A flock this size probably gave the observers a better opportunity to hear their call notes than would be the case where only a few birds were seen either alone or in company with Cedar Waxwings.

Quite suddenly the entire flock rose up into the air and flew away over the fields and out of sight, — not a single laggard remaining. An examination of the snow covered ground under the tree in which the birds had perched showed a heavy splattering of bird droppings, red from the seed and hulls of multiflora rose. This particular flock had undoubtedly feasted on rose hips the previous day also. An examination of the milkweeds showed that the birds had been feeding also on the seeds from the pods. By chance on the next day Jan. 29 I observed about 40 of the Bohemian Waxwings again fly in and alight on our multiflora rose, but they all flew away in about 10 minutes.

On Jan. 29 Mr. M. E. Mortimore noticed a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings on the lawn at his home 1 mile south of Lamoni on U.S. 69. A prompt telephone call to town brought several observers. Here the waxwings fed on highbrush cranberry, flowering crabapple, multiflora rose, ornamental rose, and unharvested orchard apples. At times they flew within 15 feet of observers on the lawn. Once about 20 birds alighted on a small tree only twenty feet in front of the Mortimore picture window. At these close distances the reddish under tail feathers were easily seen as well as the white feathers in each wing. The following persons observed the waxwings at the Mortimore residence,—Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Mortimore, Jess Alfred of Leon, Lorraine Derry, Pauline Hodges, Dorothy Rauch, Rita Reynard, and Bernice Gamet.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver drove to both the Gillaspey and the Mortimore farms but missed seeing the waxwings by a few minutes each time. This disappointment was balanced to some extent, however, by having 7 Evening Grosbeaks in their house yard on January 3.

In none of these observations were any Cedar Waxwings seen, so we assume the flock was entirely Bohemian. We also rather assume that it was the same flock seen at both the Gillaspey and Mortimore farms, being only about 4 miles apart. The weather these two days was warm and sunny with temperatures up in the forties. This was after a month of prolonged cold and

heavy snow. We hope other Iowans can enjoy the sight of these birds somehow. J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Lamoni, Iowa. (This is typical of many reports, ed.).

**The Dainty Grosbeak.** Everyone has watched a Robin or a Catbird fly to a branch loaded with fruit and see them gulp down great quantities of the food, but have you ever bothered to watch a Rose-breasted Grosbeak feed. The grosbeak feeding habitat is deliberate and dainty.

On June 23, 1959, I noticed a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak busy at work in our cherry tree. The cherries were green and hard, but this grosbeak was not interested in the pulp, but the pit. She would bite the pulp away and then eat the pit. Later examination with a knife showed that the inside of the pit was still soft and easily cut with a knife and that our hard working grosbeak was after the nourishing food in the cherry pit.

One of the most rewarding plants in the sense of furnishing wild bird food is the Solomon's Seal and a clump should be in every yard. If planted near a window the bird observer will have a box seat, for the dark blue fruit in the fall is so enticing that the various kinds of birds won't hesitate at all, but will gulp the berries while you watch. Robins of course are the most numerous birds around in the fall and they will flock to the stand of Solomon's Seal. Catbirds and other migrating thrushes enjoy the fruit, when the Robins allow them to get to it.

Another bird which likes the above fruit is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. When not disturbed the grosbeak will patiently peel the tough skin from the rather large sized berry and then eat the green pulp and seeds inside. It is one of the most dainty feeding operations this observer has ever witnessed. But then, if you have ever watched a grosbeak carefully nibble the tufted portion from a catalpa seed before eating the seed, you will know that you are watching one of our most dainty birds. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 2nd Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

**A Late Clay-colored Sparrow.** The Clay-colored Sparrow is a regular spring migrant in western Iowa, but is often not seen in the fall. The fall of 1961 was one of those years when we had a light flight. The first migrants were seen on October 4th. Another sparrow was seen on the 8th of October and then came two rather late records on October 24th and 25th. These latter two records were the latest I had had in this area. However, I was to be agreeably surprised for on November 13th a lone Clay-colored Sparrow showed up at one of the bird baths. This sparrow stayed close most of the day and took turns with the Juncos and Tree Sparrows in taking frequent baths. WM. YOUNGWORTH, 3119 2nd Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION — MIGRATION OF BUFFLEHEADS

A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak date of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other data on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)", and "last seen (date)" to "departure (date)". Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962, but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colour-mark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to: A. J. ERSKINE, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 180, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Audubon and His Journals** — John James Audubon, edited by Maria Audubon — 2 volumes 1960 — 1086 p. Dover Publications, Inc. — Each volume \$2.00, the set \$4.00. Paper bound.

A reprinting at a cost within the reach of all of one of the basic historical ornithological works in America. The two volumes include the *European Journals*, the *Labrador Journals*, the *Episodes* and the *Missouri River Journals*. It is the latter which concerns Iowa. This trip was made in 1843 and gives a fascinating insight into the natural history of western Iowa in that period. The volumes are illustrated with photographs of Audubon's homes, colleagues, some of his bird illustrations, an dfacsimile pages of the original journals.

While the journals are not an excellent example of a scientific expedition record, they do provide interesting reading. They are much more readable, while not actually literary, than the average scientific account. ed

**The Birds of Alaska**— Ira N. Gabrielson and Frederick Lincoln. The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C., 1959. 922 p., 13 plates in color—\$15.00.

This large volume provides an up to date work on one of our newest states. The species accounts are thorough and detailed. No distinction is made between species and subspecies, with the latter being given vernacular names despite the precedent of the latest edition of the **A.O.U. Checklist**. This is especially misleading in the case of the Alaska Longspur, which is our Lapland Longspur, merely another race. Each account consists of native names, description, general range, range in Alaska, and haunts and habitats. The latter section is very well done and most enlightening.

The few plates are small and poorly produced. In a volume of the scope (and price) of this these plates are out of place. The small map is also insufficient, especially as it accompanies an excellent gazetteer. The bibliography is quite copious and thorough.

This book would be an asset to anyone planning to travel to Alaska. As an addition to a library of state bird books this volume would seem over priced as compared with most of its recent counterparts from other states. ed

**The Birds**—Oskar Heinroth and Katharina Heinroth. 1958. 179 p. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan. \$5.00.

An introduction to ornithology translated from German. This book, despite the fact it was written by a man who was one of the leading scientists in Europe, is very readable. His wife has updated her husband's work and produced a polished volume. The book is divided into twenty-two chapters, beginning with general structures, nesting, avian parasites, hybrids, mating, molting, color, cleanliness, feeding, communication, senses, locomotion, mental power, and navigation. Little mention is made of distribution (which would be of little benefit to Americans), and ecology.

The many photographs and line drawings supplement the text nicely, and the literary style is simple and fluid. Many very interesting details are mentioned in addition to the general background. While written primarily for a beginner in ornithology this volume contains material new to almost any bird student. ed

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The cover for 1962 was designed by Miss Shirley Briggs, Editor of the *Atlantic Naturalist*. Miss Briggs is originally from Iowa City and was most generous to donate her talents. It is hoped the change from a Goldfinch will meet with favorable comment. ed.

## CONTENTS

NESTING RECORDS .....	1-6
CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA .....	7-17
SPRING CONVENTION AT CEDAR FALLS .....	17
GENERAL NOTES REPORT .....	17-19
GENERAL NOTES .....	19-22
BOOK REVIEWS .....	23

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Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

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